



Newsleak

South Carolina DHEC's Drinking Water Newsletter

Volume 16, Issue 3 . July-September 2005

SC DHEC • Bureau of Water

Sanitary Survey

Groundwater Systems: Item 1 - Quantity

by Lindsey Bounds, Drinking Water Compliance

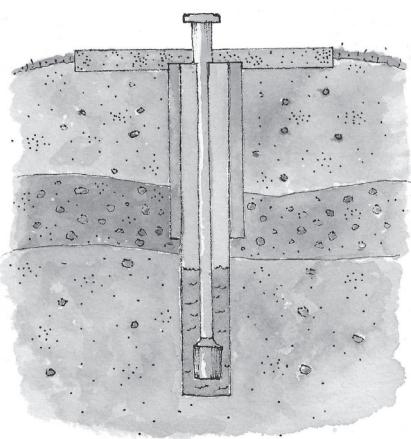
DHEC staff conduct sanitary surveys on all public water systems in South Carolina. One item covered during each survey is the available source water quantity. During a sanitary survey, the inspector will determine whether or not there are an adequate number of sources, and if these sources will provide enough water to meet the system demand.

One of the best ways of determining whether the system has a quantity problem is to check and see if the system has been forced to over-pump its wells for more than 16 hours a day. To check your system, review the regulated capacity of all your wells. If you don't know the capacity rating, DHEC staff can provide this for you from permitting records. Once you

know the regulated capacity, compare that number to the average daily usage of water pumped by your water source wells. If daily usage exceeds the regulated capacity, then the system is likely over-pumping its wells. Also, a system running out of water during an emergency situation is another indication of a quantity problem. Don't forget, regulations require that systems with at least 50 taps, or that serve 150 people or more, are required to have two independent sources of water.

If your system has an adequate quantity of source water with no history of water shortages, then a rating of "satisfactory" will be given during a DHEC sanitary survey. However if system demand is approaching the maximum capacity, then a "needs improvement" rating will be given for this item. If your system has a history of water shortages or low distribution pressures caused by a lack of source capacity, then an "unsatisfactory" rating will be given and the system may be referred to enforcement.

For more information about sanitary survey items, contact Lindsey Bounds at 803-898-3908, or e-mail boundslm@dhec.sc.gov.



Upcoming Events

Annual Drinking Water Technology Forum

October 6-7, 2005

Savannah, Georgia

The seventh annual technology forum will cover topics such as ultraviolet (UV) disinfection in water supplies, membrane technology, and water system security.

Registration for the joint Georgia/South Carolina/North Carolina event has already started.

For more information, contact the S.C. AWWA Office at (803) 540-1888 or visit <http://www.scaawwa.org>.

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South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

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Come and Get It! Operator Training Available

South Carolina's Environmental Training Center (SCETC) will have training programs for small water system operators (serving a population of less than 3,300 persons). These programs will provide effective free training for eligible operators throughout the state. Operators will learn the tools to help them perform their operational duties more effectively and efficiently. These programs will also provide eligible licensed operators with continuing education training necessary to maintain their certification. Classroom training sessions will be offered at many locations throughout the state. There will also be some online courses available. If you are interested in participating, contact SCETC at (803) 778-1961, or visit their Web site at <http://www.cctech.edu/conted/scetc.scetc.asp>.

State Revolving Fund

The drinking water State Revolving Fund (SRF) program allocation for fiscal year 2006 is \$850 million. South Carolina's allotment is \$8,352,500. We are currently drafting our Intended Use Plan that describes the programs to be funded by SRF funds.

We are also working on the Project Priority Listing that lists the actual construction projects to be funded for the new year. These should be available for your review on our Web site at <http://www.scdhec.sc.gov/water/html/srf.html>.

Capacity Development & the Smaller Drinking Water System

by Mark Noble, SRF Program

DHEC's Capacity Development team assists the state's small public water systems (serving population of less than 10,000 persons) with design and capacity questions, operations and maintenance problems, or budgeting and rate setting issues. Since May of 2000, the department's capacity development activities centered around our Technical Assistance for Small Water Systems contract with an outside consulting firm. That contract's term ended April 30, 2005. Now, we are operating our capacity development activities through an in-house team here at DHEC.

The Capacity Development Team gives small water systems assistance with technical, managerial, or financial issues.

When wrapping up their contract, the consultant noted lack of financial management is the universal weakness affecting most small public water systems in the state. While many systems have an annual operating budget, many do not track their monthly income and expenses. This usually prevents proper spending planning and results in federal loans or grants being the only source of funds for some systems.

If you are a small water system and would like help in attaining technical, managerial or financial capacity, contact DHEC's Capacity Development Team at (803) 898-4241, or e-mail to taylorf@dhec.sc.gov.

Championing Water Quality

by Lynne Lasalle
and Carol Roberts, Water Outreach

Protecting sources of drinking water helps maintain a clean, safe drinking water supply. Water systems now have a copy of source water assessments that include defined protection areas around their water sources and a list of potential contaminants located within the protection area. Communities can use this information to start drinking water protection efforts of their own. Efforts can range from community education, to adding zoning requirements within protection areas. Protection efforts to maintain clean water in South Carolina help ensure that we receive safe drinking water from our surface water and groundwater sources.

A group of students at West Ashley High School worked on a project to protect water quality in a stormwater pond and wetland area near their school. They built a buffer around the stormwater pond. Plants were added to 50 feet of shoreline to trap pollutants like loose soil, litter and yard chemicals before they reach the water body. Students also stenciled on stormdrains to remind people not to dump pollutants down them.

The goal of the project was to reduce pollutants entering the stormwater pond. This should improve water quality as the stormwater flows out of the pond and wetlands to the nearby Stono River or into groundwater. For their efforts, the students were named "Champions of the Environment" by a DHEC program that recognizes students working on environmental projects.

This project is an example of how we can all contribute to water quality. Start a protection program in your community today!

It's Not Too Late! It's Free - It's Easy And It's All About You

We want to make sure we are providing useful information in the best format to meet your needs. So, help us make the newsletter what *you* need it to be by completing and returning this survey today! Survey participants will be included in a random drawing to give away a free Champions of the Environment T-shirt and a complimentary "Waterboy" pen to one winner.

**Please Circle Your Answer to the
Questions Based on the Following Scale**

1=strongly disagree / 2=moderately disagree
3=undecided / 4=moderately agree / 5=strongly agree



1. The newsletter contains important topics relevant to my work as a drinking water system operator or owner.

1 2 3 4 5

2. The newsletter has helped me understand regulatory requirements related to my job.

1 2 3 4 5

3. I can remember a specific instance where the newsletter helped me meet a regulatory requirement related to my job.

1 2 3 4 5

4. I consider the newsletter to be an important method of communication between myself and DHEC.

1 2 3 4 5

5. I am agreeable to receiving the newsletter in electronic format with an option to subscribe in or out at my discretion.

1 2 3 4 5

6. The information in the newsletter is a repeat of information I already receive from another source such as a professional association newsletter or a drinking water Web site.

1 2 3 4 5

7. The newsletter is no longer needed.

1 2 3 4 5

8. I would prefer to have one or two topics covered in-depth in each newsletter.

1 2 3 4 5

9. I would prefer to have a variety of topics covered in each newsletter.

1 2 3 4 5

10. Please list any specific topics you would like to see covered in the newsletter.

11. What do you believe is the most important purpose of the *Newsleak* newsletter?

12. How often do you think the newsletter should be published (circle one)?

4 times a year 3 times a year 2 times a year Monthly

13. How many people does your water system serve (circle one)?

0- 25 26-10,000 more than 10,000

14. Do you save issues of the *Newsleak*?

Yes No

15. Are you interested in submitting an article for possible use in the newsletter?

Yes No

16. Please print your e-mail or telephone number below if you would like to be included in the drawing or would like to contribute an article to *Newsleak*.

***Postage is paid on all returned surveys.
Just fold and tape shut, then mail.***

Thank you for your participation!

Source Water Protection Handbook Available

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) and the American Water Works Association (AWWA) have produced a handbook that provides local governments, water suppliers, agencies, and community drinking water advocates with a host of tools on Source Water Protection (SWP). The handbook includes how to identify source water conservation opportunities, implement funded source water conservation programs, and acquire and protect the lands that will help keep our drinking water clean.



Sections include:

- ◆ Understanding your watershed
- ◆ Prioritizing land for protection
- ◆ Building strong partnerships
- ◆ Designing a comprehensive source protection plan
- ◆ Financing the conservation of land
- ◆ Protecting priority parcels
- ◆ Managing the land

This new publication also provides best practices and case studies from communities across America.

The handbook can be purchased for \$25 on TPL's Web site at <http://ga0.org/ct/hpqsp561Tzs1/landandwater>.

Don't Forget

We need your help to guide the future of the "Newsleak" newsletter. Don't forget to fill out the survey on Page 3. Just fold this page, tape and return. It's that easy.

We look forward to hearing from you!



ATTN CAROL ROBERTS
DHIC BUREAU OF WATER
2600 BULL ST
COLUMBIA SC 29201-9714

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Cross Connection Regulation Takes Effect for Community (Type-C) Water Systems

Lawn irrigation sprinkler systems are now generally categorized as low hazard cross connections for Community (Type-C) water systems. Type-C systems serve at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serve at least 25 year-round residents. These water systems must adopt and have a written policy stating which backflow prevention device or assembly they will require on existing and future residential lawn irrigation sprinkler systems.

If a double check valve assembly or other testable backflow prevention assembly is used, a written policy must state how frequently the backflow prevention assembly will be tested. The testing records must be maintained to verify compliance with the testing requirements. However, if a residential dual check is used, then the written policy must include how often the residential dual check



will be changed-out, and written records must track when the dual check has been changed-out.

Where chemicals or an unapproved auxiliary water supply is tied into the system, the lawn irrigation sprinkler system is categorized as a high hazard and must meet a different regulatory requirement as outlined in the Drinking Water Regulation. In either case, DHEC staff conducting a sanitary survey of your water system will review the records related to backflow prevention on residential lawn irrigation sprinkler systems.

Once your backflow prevention policy on residential lawn irrigation sprinkler systems

is adopted, please mail that written policy to DHEC by December 31, 2005.

The information can be mailed to:
Mr. John Watkins, SCDHEC, Bureau of Water, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201.

For specific wording on backflow regulations, see the State Drinking Water Regulation, R.61-58.7(F). If you have any questions about backflow requirements, contact John Watkins at (803) 898-3567, or e-mail watkinjd@dhec.sc.gov.

SRF Funds Available

The State Revolving Fund (SRF) provides low-interest, long-term loans to communities for construction of drinking water and wastewater treatment and transmission facilities. For more information, call (803) 898-4038, or visit <http://www.scdhec.gov/water/html/srf.html>.

Enforcement Division Report

From April 1–June 30, 2005, the Enforcement Division issued one Consent Agreement, 35 Consent Orders, two Administrative Orders and two Emergency Orders. The Water Enforcement Division assessed approximately \$4,545,091 during the second quarter of 2005.

More information about enforcement activities within DHEC may be found at <http://www.scdhec.gov/eqc/admin/html/eqcmain.html#Enforcement>.

Enforcement Actions

April 1–June 30, 2005

	*CA	(CO)	(AO)	(EO)
Agricultural Facilities		1		
Capacity Use				
Dams and Reservoirs				
Drinking Water		8		
Groundwater		2		
NPDES		4	1	1
Pollution Control Act	1	10	1	1
Recreational Waters		2		
Residential Wells				
Stormwater & Sediment Control		8		

*Consent Agreement/Consent Order/Administrative Order/Emergency Order

Bureau of Water Telephone Numbers

Main Telephone Number
(803) 898-4300

Main Fax Number
(803) 898-4215

Local Environmental Quality Control Offices

Aiken Office	(803) 641-7670
Aiken, Orangeburg, Barnwell, Bamberg, Allendale, Calhoun	
Anderson Office	(864) 260-5569
Anderson, Oconee	
Beaufort Office	(843) 846-1030
Beaufort, Jasper, Colleton, Hampton	
Charleston Office	(843) 740-1590
Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester	
Columbia Office	(803) 896-0620
Richland, Lexington, Newberry, Fairfield	
Florence Office	(843) 661-4825
Florence, Dillon, Marion, Marlboro, Darlington, Chesterfield	
Greenville Office	(864) 241-1090
Greenville, Pickens	
Greenwood Office	(864) 223-0333
Greenwood, Abbeville, Laurens, Saluda, Edgefield, McCormick	
Lancaster Office	(803) 285-7461
Lancaster, Chester, York	
Myrtle Beach Office	(843) 238-4378
Horry, Georgetown, Williamsburg	
Spartanburg Office	(864) 596-3800
Spartanburg, Cherokee, Union	
Sumter Office	(803) 778-6548
Sumter, Kershaw, Lee, Clarendon	

For Information Call . . .

Lead and Copper
Patrick Metts (803) 898-3794

Bacteriological Monitoring Program
Amanda Kraft (803) 898-4156

THM and SWTR compliance
Leslie Owens (803) 898-4149

Radiological compliance
Idris Liban (803) 898-3573

IOC, VOC, and SOC compliance
Idris Liban (803) 898-3573

State Safe Drinking Water Act Fees
Susan Alder (803) 898-3554

Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection Control
John Watkins (803) 898-3567

Permitting of sources and treatment
Shawn Clarke (803) 898-3544

Permitting of water distribution lines
Wayne Stokes (803) 898-4159

Status of permit applications
Patty Barnes (803) 898-3550

Disinfectants/Disinfection By-product Rule
Richard Welch (803) 898-3546

www.scdhec.gov/water

(803) 898-3542

Columbia, SC 29201

2600 Bull Street

SC DHEC Bureau of Water

